

REMARKS

In the last Office Action, the Examiner rejected claims 1, 7, 8 and 14 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 4,026,101 to Moyer in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,661,428 to Kim. Claims 2 and 9 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Moyer in view of Kim and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,597,339 to Ogawa. Claims 5, 6, 10 and 11 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Moyer in view of Kim and further in view of Ogawa and U.S. Patent No. 6,157,169 to Lee. Claims 3 and 12 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Moyer in view of Kim and further in view of Ogawa and U.S. Patent No. 5,285,430 to Decker. Claims 4, 13 and 15-19 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Moyer in view of Kim and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 4,513,282 to Nakagiri. Claim 20 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Moyer in view of Kim and further in view of Nakagiri and Decker.

In accordance with the present response, page 8 of the specification has been revised to correct a minor informality. Page 10 of the specification has been amended to provide antecedent basis for the amended claim language. Independent claims 1, 8 and 15 have been amended to further

patentably distinguish from the prior art of record. The previously submitted abstract has been revised to more clearly reflect the invention to which the amended claims are directed.

Applicant requests reconsideration of his application in light of the foregoing amendments and the following discussion.

Brief Summary of Invention

The present invention is directed to a portable electronic apparatus.

As described in the specification (pages 1-4), conventional portable electronic apparatuses, such as portable electronic timepieces, are associated with large power consumption due to the fact that a light for the display must be turned on constantly for a function specific to the timepiece. More specifically, the conventional portable electronic apparatuses have not been able to adjust the brightness of the display (i.e., to facilitate visual recognition of the display) with low power consumption.

The present invention overcomes the drawbacks of the conventional art. Figs. 1-4 show an embodiment of the portable electronic apparatus 201 according to the present invention in the form of a portable electronic timepiece. The

portable electronic apparatus has a display 108 having display segments (i.e., for digits of segments shown in Fig. 2) for indicating time in a time display mode. A selecting circuit 104 (e.g., operable via switch swC in Fig. 2) selects one of the display segments of the display 108 in the time display mode for modification of the display segment in a time correction mode in which the time indicated in the time display mode is corrected. A display brightness controller 106 controls the display 108 so that the display segment selected by the selecting circuit 104 has a display brightness higher than that of the other display segments displayed by the display 108.

By the foregoing construction, the portable electronic apparatus according to the present invention performs display that is easy to visually recognize while accomplishing it with low power consumption. When the portable electronic apparatus is a portable electronic timepiece, the foregoing advantages are highly beneficial during a time correction mode, in which time indicated in a time display mode is corrected, because the display time in a time correction mode is longer than other display times during use of the timepiece.

Traversal of Prior Art Rejections

Claims 1-20 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over various combinations of the references to Moyer, Kim, Ogawa, Lee, Decker and Nakagiri. Applicant respectfully traverse these rejections and submit that the combined teachings of the references do not disclose or suggest the subject matter recited in amended independent claims 1, 8 and 15 and corresponding dependent claims 2-7, 9-14 and 16-20.

Amended independent claim 1 is directed to a portable electronic apparatus and requires display means for displaying a plurality of display segments to indicate time in a time display mode, manipulation means for selecting any one of the display segments displayed by the display means in the time display mode for modification of the selected display segment in a time correction mode in which the time indicated in the time display mode is corrected, and display brightness control means for controlling the display means so that the display segment selected by the manipulation means has a display brightness higher than that of the other display segments displayed by the display means. No corresponding structural and functional combination is disclosed or suggested by the combined teachings of the cited references.

The primary reference to Moyer discloses a timepiece for displaying display segments and manipulation means for selecting one of the display segments. As recognized by the Examiner, Moyer does not disclose or suggest the display brightness control means and corresponding function recited in independent claim 1.

Moreover, while functioning to select one of the display segments, the manipulation means in Moyer does not function to select any one of the display segments displayed by the display means in the time display mode for modification of the selected display segment in a time correction mode in which the time indicated in the time display mode is corrected, as recited in amended independent claim 1.

The secondary reference to Kim has been cited by the Examiner for its disclosure of display brightness control means for controlling a display so that a display segment displayed by the display and selected by a manipulation means has a display brightness higher than that of other display segments displayed by the display. However, in Kim the manipulation means does not function to select any one of the display segments displayed by the display means in the time display mode for modification of the selected display segment in a time correction mode in which the time indicated in the time display mode is corrected, as recited in amended independent claim 1.

The remaining cited references to Ogawa, Lee, Decker and Nakajiri disclose electronic apparatuses employing display means for displaying display segments and manipulation means for selecting one of the display segments. However, none of these references teaches a portable electronic apparatus having manipulation means for selecting any one of the display segments displayed by the display means in the time display mode for modification of the selected display segment in a time correction mode in which the time indicated in the time display mode is corrected, as recited in amended independent claim 1.

Amended independent claims 8 and 15 are also directed to a portable electronic apparatus and require a selecting circuit for selecting one of the display segments of the display in the time display mode for modification of the selected display segment in a time correction mode in which the time indicated in the time display mode is corrected (claims 8, 15), a display brightness controller for controlling the display so that the display segment selected by the selecting circuit has a display brightness higher than that of the other display segments displayed by the display (claim 8), and control means for controlling the display so that the display segment selected by the selecting means has a font size larger than that of the other display segments

displayed by the display (claim 15). No corresponding structural and functional combinations are disclosed or suggested by the prior art of record as set forth above for amended independent claim 1.

Thus none of the cited references teaches any structure for selecting a display segment for modification in a time correction mode (claims 1, 8, 15), structure for controlling a display having the display segment so that the selected display segment has a display brightness higher than that of other display segments displayed by the display (claims 1, 8), and structure for controlling the display so that the display segment selected by the selecting means has a font size larger than that of the other display segments displayed by the display (claim 15), as required by amended independent claims 1, 8 and 15. Accordingly, one of ordinary skill in the art would not have been led to modify the references to attain the claimed subject matter.

Claims 2-7, 9-14 and 16-20 depend on and contain all of the limitations of amended independent claims 1, 8 and 15, respectively, and, therefore, distinguish from the references at least in the same manner as claims 1, 8 and 15.

In view of the foregoing, applicant respectfully requests that the rejections of claims 1-20 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over the various combinations of the references to Moyer, Kim, Ogawa, Lee, Decker and Nakagiri be withdrawn.

In view of the foregoing amendments and discussion, the application is believed to be in allowable form. Accordingly, favorable reconsideration and allowance of the claims are most respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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